



September 20, 2021

Dear NYS AIS Heads of School,

The Executive Director Search Committee is pleased to share with you an update on our work. We have partnered closely with our search consultant from RG175, Tony Featherston, over the summer months and early fall. After reviewing the results of the survey you completed along with conversations with the staff and board of trustees at NYS AIS, we crafted an opportunity statement. RG175 posted the position and actively cultivated their vast network. The opportunity attracted a diverse and strong pool of candidates from across the country, a testament to the strength of NYS AIS.

Tony Featherston reviewed a number of impressive resumes and presented 12 highly qualified and diverse candidates. The committee then narrowed the field to six semi-finalists. All six were interviewed in August in person at Masters School's campus. The committee selected three strong finalists to present to the board. Thanks to the thoughtful and detailed feedback we received from our community, we believe that these finalists embody the relevant experience and leadership skills that align with our aspirations for the next Executive Director for NYS AIS.

NYS AIS Staff and Mark Lauria had virtual interviews with each of the finalists last week. The board interviewed the three finalists also last week once again at Masters School's campus. The search committee is now in the process of conducting reference checks and taking into consideration all of the information and input gathered on each finalist. We anticipate announcing the next Executive Director for NYS AIS in October.

We appreciate your input and the trust you have placed in us to steward this important process. We look forward to sharing the outcome of our search in the next few weeks.

Sincerely,

Jenny Rao, *Search Committee Chair, Emma Willard School*

Jean-Marc Juhel, *President, Buckley Country Day School*

Laura Danforth, *Treasurer, The Masters School*

Martha Haakmat, *Haakmat Consulting, LLC*

Phil Kassen, *Little Red School House and Elisabeth Irwin High School*

Chris Lauricella, *The Albany Academies*

Amani Reed, *The School at Columbia University*